3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said plurality of documents is subject to editing on a document-by-document basis.

4. A method as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein the elements stored in said edit result storage are further edited before being retrieved from said document edit system.

5. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains a tag which is delimited using two selected characters, said tag being used to define an element which is an identified element in the element search portion of the document.

6. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains a character pattern consisting of normal text characters in sequence.

7. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains a wild card tag which is defined by a selected character delimited using two selected characters, said wild card tag being used to determine structured layers in the element search portion of the document.

8. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains a negation indicator which is defined using a selected character and accompanies an element-defining name, said negation indicator being used to define an element wherein an element match is not established with a character sequence immediately following said negation indicator.

9. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains an extraction indicator defined using a selected character and accompanying a character sequence, said extraction indicator being used to extract an element from the element search portion of the document if said character sequence matches the element in the element search portion.

10. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains a sequence connector defined by a selected character, said sequence connector accompanying

two element-defining names at both sides of said sequence connector, said sequence connector specifying, in the element search portion, two elements positioned in the same order of said two element-defining names.

11. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains a hierarchy connector defined by inserting no character between first and second element-defining names, said hierarchy connector being used to determine if an element defined by said first element-defining name involves an element defined by said second element-defining name.

12. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains parentheses involving a plurality of element-defining names that are preferentially processed.

13. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains an AND connector defined using a selected character and accompanying first and second element-defining names which are provided so as to sandwich said AND connector, said two element-defining names being used to determine if the element, which forms part of the element search portion and is defined by said first element-defining name, either follows or precedes the element which is defined by said second element-defining name.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein, if either of said first or second element-defining names sandwiching said AND connector specifies the corresponding element in the document, a match is established therebetween and the corresponding element is extracted and stored in said edit result storage.

15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein if a match is established in connection with only one of said first and second element-defining names, the element already stored in said edit result storage is deleted therefrom.

16. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains an OR connector defined using a selected character and accompanying first and second element-defining names which are provided in a manner to sandwich said OR connector, said